

May 14, 1960

Approved For Release 2005/01/27 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700450008-1

REMARKS OF SEN. SYMINGTON

SYMINGTON

City Side at 12:30 P.M. over WTOP-TV (Washington):

SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON WAS SEEN ON THE TV SCREEN AS HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY A PANEL OF REPORTERS.

QUESTION: "Senator, what would you do, in view of all the concern over this U-2 incident in Moscow -- what would you as President attempt to do to safeguard against repetition of that sort of thing?"

SYMINGTON: "I would never have anybody say in an administration that I ran that people in high authority knew nothing about this mission, Mr. Woods. I would take steps to see that a matter of this scope and importance was known at the highest level. Espionage is part of our life, and there's no use crying over spilt milk, but it did seem unfortunate to me that, first, the story was denied and the way it was denied, and then instead of us having a united picture on it, later on each department interested, you might say, had a different picture and finally there was a complete reversal of our position.

"I would hope that if we had decided to send a plane across a country behind the Iron Curtain, to the degree and the extent it apparently is obvious now that we've done, that that would be a matter of interest and grave concern to the highest people in our government. It was apparently something that was decided at a considerably lower level; at least the statement was made that nobody in high authority knew about it."

QUESTION: "Do you accept this as being fact, that nobody really did know that this was going on?"

SYMINGTON: "It's very hard for me to understand that, Mr. Cushing, because the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY reports directly to the President, just like the Department of Defense does. True that it reports to the National Security Council, but the National Security Council is an advisory body at highest level to the President of the United States."